

exception, and the maintenance of rights was the rule. Also it was a privilege of the Church, as dear to her as were her other possessions. Until the power of that great institution was struck down once for all, nothing was to be won from her, for she would surrender nothing of her own accord.<sup>1</sup>

There was another abuse connected with Sanctuary. The Church protected not only criminals but fraudulent debtors. Men escaped with their money and goods to sacred ground and lived there till they had tired out their creditors' patience or found opportunity to escape. In the neighbourhood of London, men who had borrowed large sums of money from city merchants made a collusive donation of all their property to their friends, and \* fled to Westminster, St. Martin's or other such privileged places, and there lived till their creditors were forced to accept a small part of their debt only and remit the rest.' - The precincts of the Abbey, says Dean Stanley, were 'a vast cave of Adullam, for all the distressed and discontented in the Metropolis, who desired, according to the phrase of the time, to " take Westminster."<sup>2</sup>

The imprisonment of genuinely bankrupt debtors has been abandoned b}-' the Slate in the nineteenth century, and its folly was recognised by a few reformers in the fourteenth. Among the extravagances for which the Lollards were denounced was their proposal to abolish imprisonment for debt.<sup>4</sup> But in the case of fraudulent debtors who had money to pay, it would have been well rigorously to enforce the law, for imprisonment at least compelled them to pay their debts. Such persons were enticed by the immunities of Sanctuary to rob their creditors on system.

As was only too usual at that time, such grievances were often remedied by violence. Haule's death at Westminster was a notorious but not an exceptional case. In country parishes, too, refugees had their throats cut in the church.\* The lawlessness of all kinds produced by the privilege demanded immediate remedy. John of Gaunt intended beforehand to bring it up in the Parliament at Gloucester,\*\*

<sup>1</sup> See Ap.

\* *Mot. Parl*, it, 809, iH,

\* *Westminster Alfovy* (2nd ed.), p. 390; *P. PL*, B, xx. 282.  
 \* Matt., 211, 214; *Fasc.* #. 337. \* Wilkin, iii. m,  
 \* Wai a., i. 380 ; *De Etc.*, 266.